

to Parliament upon totally different questions many liberals may fear that their petitions will never reach the Lieut. Governor. Were a member to refuse to forward a petition he would simply place himself without the pale of society. A member is bound to forward a petition whether he agrees or disagrees with its contents. It is the duty of every Nova Scotian who either opposes the scheme *in toto*, or who objects to the hurried manner in which it is liable to become the law of the land, to cry "time" and insist upon a general election. Two arguments will be urged against an appeal to the people. Firstly it will be said: "A general election causes great unnecessary (?) expense and causes a detrimental excitement in every part of the Province. It upsets men's minds and creates universal distrust and confusion throughout the land." If this argument be based upon truth, it applies with equal force to every election that has ever taken place in Nova Scotia, and supposes our population to be totally unfitted for self-government. Secondly it may be urged: "If you have an election now, the people will not vote upon the Union question at all. They will see exposed all the little faults and fallacies of both the government and opposition. Smaller cries—cries perhaps more personally interesting to the voters than Union will be heard at the polls, and the decision of the people will be given, not on the merits of Federation, but on the merits or demerits of some local scandal." We must hope that those who proposed this curious theory do not accurately represent the tone of our country population. The inhabitants of the country districts are not so foolish as to lose sight of a great question, affecting their interests for all time, to dwell on such paltry matters as have hitherto afforded them subjects for political conversation. These arguments against an election we fancy will have but little weight, far less weight than the voice of the government which is heard at the table of the Lieut. Governor. There are to be found the true obstacles to an appeal to the country. It is therefore to the Lieut. Governor in Council that an appeal by the people must be made. Finally, how would the Province stand, if the Union hastily entered into without a general election should prove a failure and obnoxious to three-fourths or even one half of Nova Scotia? A just and endless agitation for a repeal of the Union would be made by those who were never consulted in its formation. "We were never consulted" they might justly urge, "we will never be satisfied until appeal has been made to the crown that the voice of the country be heard on this subject." The delegates and their associates at Ottawa might smile an unctious smile at the troubles of Nova Scotia. They might treat the agitation as a piece of child's play. The excitement here, however, would soon border on rebellion, and endless trouble would ensue. It behoves then all lovers of their country, whether they be for or against Federation, equally to urge a dissolution of Parliament. If, as the delegates say, the whole country is in favor of the scheme, why dread an election which will ensure Federation and avert all future cavil and agitation? Those also opposed to the measure must come forth in strength now or never, and form a new political party in the Province. Let their cry be for "time" and a general election, that the whole people may express their opinion upon the scheme offered for their acceptance.

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Much difference of opinion necessarily exists regarding the best method of conveying moral instruction to those whose limited means exclude them from first class colleges and schools. To improve a man's morals, and at the same time

to make him enjoy his moral training, is a task requiring a considerable amount of tact and judgment. To convey the moral of a sermon without preaching, is an art not learned in a day, but when acquired, it is an art almost invaluable. Moderation, is to our thinking the great safeguard of all associations formed for the moral improvement of mankind, but after all, moderation is one of the rarest of gifts. A want of moderation has ere now led to the break-down of numberless institutions, each and all possessing a germ of good. Upon no question is moderation more needed than upon an educational question which combines secular teaching with religious advancement. Of the comparative advantages of either course of tuition there can be no two opinions, yet the conditions which ought or ought not to regulate their combination, are often made matters of angry, though well meaning contention. How far considerations of this nature affected the interests of the Young Men's Christian Association during the past two or three years, is a matter whereof we know nothing; but this we do know—that the Association has, in a marvellously short time, not only regained its *prestige*, but made giant strides ahead. This fact is gratifying to those who appreciate good results, albeit such results may be brought about in a manner not altogether suited to their own particular views. That the Young Men's Association is a rising institution, cannot be denied when we come to compare its present with its former condition.

Twelve months back, it was a mooted question whether the Association could even exist; indeed, at the commencement of the present year, its warmest friends well nigh despaired of its success. An unusual effort was deemed imperative to keep the Association alive, and to the credit of the President, Mr. BROWN, and of his zealous supporters, Messrs. McLEAN, DUFF, STIRLING, ANDERSON, &c., the friends of the Association were readily prevailed upon to guarantee a yearly donation of \$1000. The co-operation of the clergy was also sought, and at a friendly meeting, convened for the purpose of reconsidering the constitution of the Association, and taking such steps as were practicable towards rendering it more attractive than formerly,—some important reforms were recommended. These reforms were subsequently carried out by the General Committee; articles 4, 5, and 6, were expunged, and it was resolved that "any person of good moral character may be a member of this Association by the yearly payment of not less than one dollar annually. He shall be entitled to all the privileges of the institution, provided he be proposed by a member of the Association."

One uncomfortable room in Barrington street formerly belonged to the Association, whereas it now possesses the whole upper portion of the large house recently occupied by Mr. FULLER as a book store. The Association, instead of possessing one room, as formerly, now boasts of several apartments, which are in course of being fitted up with every convenience. The library is at present in a condition the reverse of satisfactory, but the library committee is hard at work, and we have little doubt the public will encourage the efforts of the latter by donations of class books, no less than of standard works. Too much importance cannot be attached to the Library department. No books of real excellence, should be excluded in order to minister to the prejudices of any particular class,—on the contrary, it is imperative that the library should be so ordered as to become attractive to men of the most opposite literary tastes. To foster a taste for reading, it is necessary that reading matter should in the first instance prove palatable to individual tastes: once awaken a man's curiosity upon any given subject, and the chances are he will, in following out his whim for the time being, acquire some knowledge capable of being turned to account. We know a man who, from a careful study of — of BULWER'S